1   the best interest of the bank at that point to do

2   that, to try to settle these, where we knew --

3   because I didn't -- we didn't think -- the bank

4   didn't think we had exposure in the Satterfield

5   case when it was proven by the attorneys -- I can't

6   remember the bank's attorney's name -- Trenholm

7   Walker said, you know, Hell, y'all have got

8   liability because you used the bank.

9   So I said, All right, we have got liability in

10   all of these. Let's try to settle it. Let's try

11   to make it right. Do the right -- One, we want to

12   do the right thing by the clients.

13   Q   And was there another consideration too, like with

14   cost benefit, litigation in Hampton County turning

15   an adverse result that was greater than

16         $1.3 million?

17   A   You know, they didn't want to pay it. When I took

18   it to the board, the board went absolutely

19   ballistic. They wanted to claw it back. And I --

20   part of the reason I got fired, I put my foot down,

21   I said, No. I said, Three of the four members of

22   the executive committee discussed this in depth --

23   which was my sister, Gray Henderson, myself, and

24   Charlie Laffitte, who was also the board chairman.

25   We have the authority by our bylaws to settle any

RUSSELL L. LAFFITTE -- ██████████████

1   lawsuits whatever or potential. We thought it was

2   in the best interest. So we did it. And they

3   wanted us to claw it back. And I told them,

4   Absolutely not. I gave them my word we were paying

5   it. And by God, we were paying it.

6   Q   Did you say, like for the authority to settle on an

7   amount that large, would you -- could you do it

8   yourself, or did you need that particular support?

9   A   I don't think I needed to go, but I was going to.

10   I mean, we are a family.

11 Q   Sure.

12 A   We would discuss it. I never tried to hide it,

13   wouldn't try to hide it. Never tried to say it was

14   anybody's fault but my own.

15 Q   Okay.

16   ███████████████   ██████████████████

17   ████████████████████████████████████

18   ██████████████████████████████████████

19   ██

20   ██████████████████   ████████████████

21   ████████████████████

22   THE WITNESS: We did the research, and when

23   I -- I -- we, the bank, me, myself, Nancy Drawdy,

24   different people, when we did the research of John

25   Peters and we saw these checks, we were like, Oh,